different categories are conducted at different point of time, no comparison can be drawn. The Government has taken several steps to improve the lot of the unorganised workers. The Government has set up five welfare funds to provide social security to the specified unorganised workers such as beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers to provide health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water etc. The Janshree Bima Yojana provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorgainsed workers who are below and marginally above poverty line. Recently, the Government has launched Universal Health Insurance Scheme and Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana which will amongst others cover the unorganised workers also. Further, social protection to the unorganized workers is also available under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). It is also proposed to enact an umbrella legislation on the unorganised sector workers with a view to provide them social security and labour protection.

Strike by labour organisations

†1281. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nation-wide strike was called by the different labour organisations on the 21st May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the loss suffered by each sector due to the strike; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strike was called in support of the Eight Point Charter of Demands. The main demands raised by the trade unions are annexed as Statement. (*See* below)

(c) According to information provided by Labour Bureau, production and wage loss suffered in the Central Sphere due to the nation wide strike on 21.5.2003, was around Rs. 47.2* crore and Rs. 15.6* crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

*Provisional.

(d) In order to redress the grievances of the workers and avert the production/wage loss, conciliation proceedings were held by Regional Labour Commissioners (Central). Besides this, the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) held a meeting with the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organizations on 19.5.2003. Hon'ble Labour Minister also met the representatives of the unions and discussed their Charter of Demands with them. However, the Central Trade Unions did not agree to call off the proposed strike and resorted to nation wide strike on 21.5.2003.

Statement

Details of demands raised by Trade Unions

(i) Halt to privatisation of profit making and potentially viable public sector undertakings.

(ii) No change in the labour laws in favour of the employers and against the interest of the workers.

(iii) Immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers.

(iv) No to policies leading to severe aggravation of joblessness and unemployment.

(v) Widen comprehensive social security schemes for all, including workers in unorganised sector.

(vi) Restoration of quantitative restrictions on imports.

(vii) Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act by removing all ceiling.

(viii) Restoration of 12% interest rate on P.F. deposits.

EPF Trustees

1282. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exempted Independent Trustees managing EPF and the amount managed by them;